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THE Feed SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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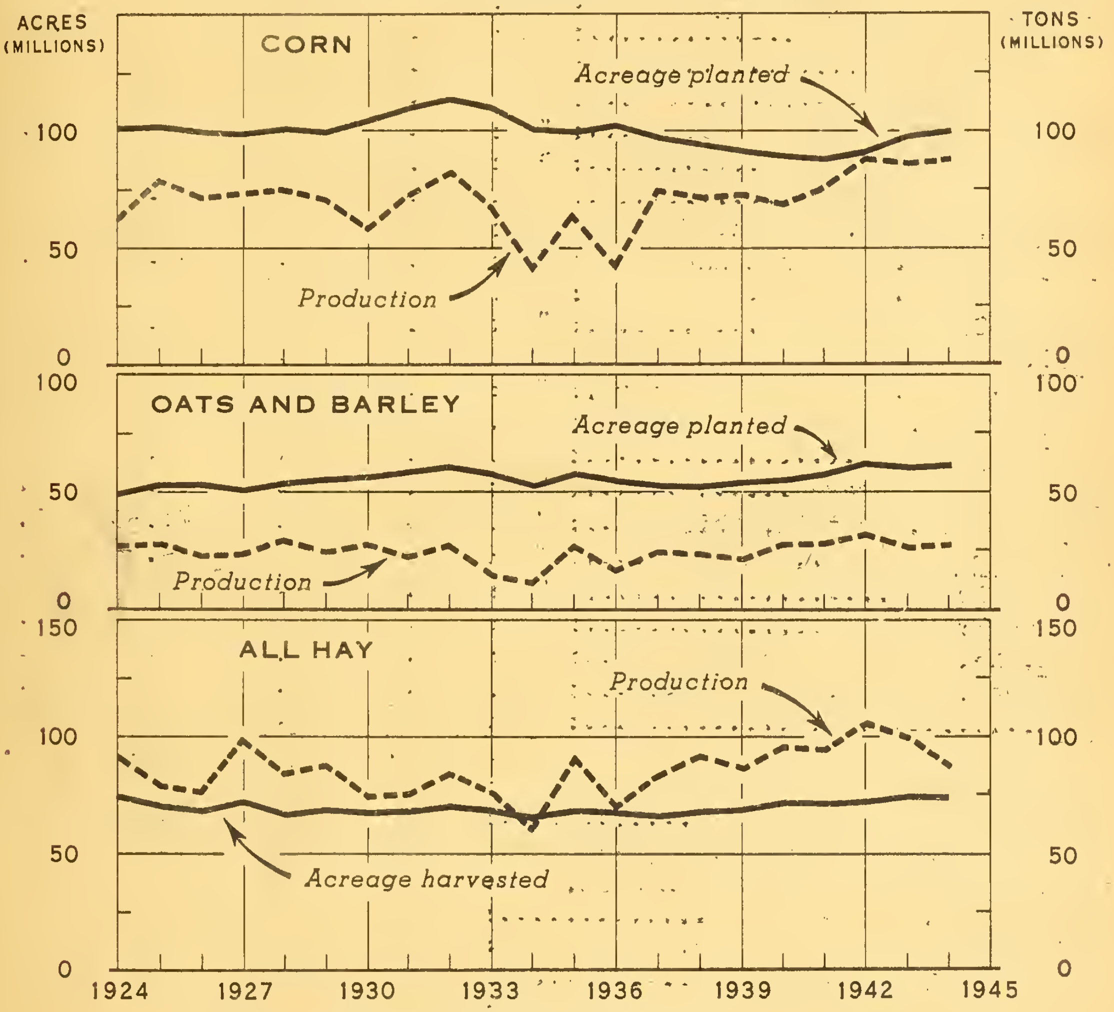
FEED CROPS: ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES, 1924-44



1944 ACREAGE, PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS AS OF MARCH 1
1944 PRODUCTION BASED ON PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS MARCH 1 AND AVERAGE YIELD

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 43526 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

The prospective acreage indicated by farmers on March 1 to be planted to corn, oats, and barley this year is about 2 percent greater than last year and 6 percent above the 1933-42 average. Smaller carry-overs of livestock feed are in prospect for the end of the present feeding year. But with the indicated increase in planted acreage and an indicated decrease in grain-consuming animal units, the total supply of feed for the 1944-45 feeding year, in relation to the number of grain-consuming animals, may not be much different from that of 1943-44.

Table 1.- Market prices of feeds and livestock-feed price ratios, March 1942, 1943, and January-March 1944

Item	Unit	Mar. 1942	Mar. 1943	1944 Jan.	1944 Feb.	1944 Mar. 1/
Grains		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Corn No. 3 Yellow, Chicago	Bu.	81.7	101.0	114.2	114.6	115.5
Oats No. 3 White, Chicago	"	54.0	64.4	80.5	80.5	80.5
No. 3 White, Minneapolis	"	51.5	59.7	78.4	79.1	78.8
Barley, No. 3, Minneapolis	"	69.6	85.5	131.9	133.2	134.2
Wheat No. 2 Hard Winter, Kansas City	"	121.0	139.9	164.8	163.0	165.1
Rye No. 2, Minneapolis	"	75.5	82.9	127.0	122.5	121.1
Byproduct Feeds (bagged)						
Standard bran, Minneapolis	Ton	35.20	37.75	37.75	37.75	37.75
Chicago	"	37.10	39.90	39.80	39.80	39.80
Buffalo	"	39.50	41.75	41.55	41.55	41.55
Standard middlings, Minneapolis	"	34.75	37.75	37.75	37.75	37.75
Chicago	"	36.60	39.90	39.80	39.80	39.80
Buffalo	"	37.90	41.75	41.55	41.55	41.55
Cottonseed meal, 41 pct. protein, Memphis	"	37.00	38.75	48.50	48.50	48.50
Linseed meal, 34 pct. protein, Minneapolis	"	42.00	54.70	45.50	45.50	45.50
30 pct. protein, San Francisco	"	41.70	51.80	47.00	47.00	47.00
Soybean meal, 41 pct. protein, Chicago	"	44.85	40.60	51.90	51.90	51.90
41 pct. protein, Decatur	"	41.15	37.00	2/48.50	2/48.50	2/48.50
Peanut meal, 45 pct. protein, S. E. milling points	"	45.35	38.00	53.00	53.00	53.00
White hominy feed, Chicago	"	31.15	42.90	50.00	50.00	50.00
Gluten feed, 23 pct. protein, Chicago	"	31.60	32.50	41.50	41.50	41.50
Tankage, digester, 60 pct., Chicago	"	78.80	3/74.55	3/74.55	3/74.55	3/74.5
Meat scraps, Chicago	"	74.00	3/71.50	3/73.50	3/73.50	3/73.50
Fish meal, San Francisco	"	77.50	79.50	79.50	79.50	79.50
Alfalfa meal, No. 1 fine, Kansas City	"	32.00	32.90	39.80	41.30	47.40
Mixed dairy feed, 16 pct. protein	"	44.00	49.80	58.60	58.80	59.00
Laying mash	"	57.60	62.40	71.60	72.00	72.00
		Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Index of Feed Prices						
Feed grains, U. S., 1910-14=100		123	146	180	181	4/181
Oilseed meal, terminal markets, 1935-39=100		138	136	166	166	166
Livestock byproduct feeds and fish meal, terminal markets, 1935-39=100		168	165	166	166	166
Ten principal high-protein feeds, terminal markets, 1935-39=100		143	142	166	166	166
Livestock-Feed Price Ratios, Index Numbers, 1923-42=100 5/						
Hog-corn ratio, Chicago		139	131	98	100	102
Beef-steer corn ratio, Chicago		107	107	90	90	91
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. 6/ 7/		87	108	93	95	4/100
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. 6/ 7/		104	114	110	110	4/116
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. 6/		108	123	93	82	4/ 92

1/ Grain prices, average for week ended March 11, byproduct feed prices as of March 14. 2/ Bulk price plus allowance for bags. 3/ Processors' price at Chicago plus allowance for bags. 4/ Preliminary. 5/ For egg-feed ratio 1933-42 = 100. Index numbers above 100 indicate that ratios are favorable to livestock producers. 6/ Adjusted for seasonal variation. 7/ Includes dairy feed payments which began October 1, 1943.

THE FEED SITUATION

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Summary

If farmers carry out their intentions expressed on March 1, plantings of the four principal feed grains in 1944 -- corn, oats, barley, and sorghums -- will approximate 179 million acres, an increase of 2 percent over the 1943 planted acreage, and 7 percent over the 10-year (1933-42) average. Assuming yields based on averages for different periods in the last 7 years, which do not include years of severe drought, production of feed grains in 1944 would be from about 112 to 118 million tons. This would be from about 3 percent less to 3 percent more than last year, and 23 to 30 percent more than the average (1933-42) production. For the individual crops, there are indicated increases of 3 percent in area planted to corn, 8 percent in oats acreage, and 3 percent in sorghums, but a 13 percent decrease is indicated in acreage planted to barley in 1944. Smaller carry-overs of feed are in prospect for the close of the present feeding year, however, and the potentially large total production will not be large in relation to the number of grain-consuming animal units in the country.

Acreages of soybeans grown alone are expected to be about the same as last year but the acreage of flaxseed planted is expected to be about 31 percent

less and the acreage of peanuts grown alone about 10 percent less than last year. The supply of protein meals in the 1944-45 feeding year will depend largely upon the volume of soybeans and flaxseed harvested, the size of the peanut crop, particularly in the Southwest, where the greatest reduction in acreage is indicated, and on the size of the cotton crop in 1944.

Little change in feed prices occurred during the past month. Leveling out of the upward trend of previous months primarily reflects effects of the price control program.

Receipts of feed grains at principal primary markets have dropped off sharply since mid-February. Although receipts in early March continued to compare favorably with the 1938-42 average, demand for shipments at present prices to industrial and deficit-area consumers has increased. In an effort to increase the flow of corn to essential users the War Food Administration has issued a set-aside order on corn applicable to elevator stocks and receipts in 124 counties in the major producing areas. [1]

-- March 23, 1944

OUTLOOK

BACKGROUND.- Total acreage planted to corn, oats, barley, and sorghums in this country was reduced 15 percent during the period 1932-40, from 182 million to 155 million acres. Since 1940, however, the trend in planted acreage has been upward, primarily as a result of increasing demand for feed, and more favorable prices. From 1940 through 1943 the total planted acreage of these four grains increased 13 percent to 175 million acres, the largest since 1932. Grain-consuming animal units in the country declined 8 percent from January 1, 1933, to January 1, 1941, but since then have increased 28 percent, from 133 to 171 million on farms January 1, 1944. The weather was favorable for grain production during the past 3 years, but demand was exceptionally strong also, with the result that reserves of feed grains decreased while prices advanced until ceilings were established on them.

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[1] The order, initially requiring elevators in the designated area to set aside 35 percent of their corn receipts, was amended (effective April 1) increasing the amount to 60 percent.

Larger Total Acreage to be Planted to Feed Grains This Year

The acreage planted to feed grains in 1944 will be larger than in 1943 if farmers' intentions, as reported on March 1, are borne out. The report of prospective plantings for 1944 indicates a total of 179 million acres to be planted to corn, oats, barley, and sorghums. This is 2 percent greater than last year, is nearly 7 percent more than the 10-year (1933-42) average, and higher than in any past year except 1932 and 1933.

The March 1 intentions report indicates a prospective 1944 planted corn acreage of 99.6 million acres. This is the largest since 1936, nearly 3 percent above that planted in 1943, and more than 3 percent above the 1933-42 average. The indicated acreage which farmers intend planting to oats, 46.2 million acres, is an 8 percent increase over last year, and is above plantings in any other year in two decades. Acreage expected to be planted to sorghums for all purposes is more than 3 percent greater than was planted last year, and 13 percent above the 1933-42 average. On the other hand, March 1 reports indicate the 1944 prospective planted acreage of barley to be 13 percent smaller than last year but about 5 percent above the 1933-42 average of 14.4 million planted acres.

Compared with the record number of livestock now on farms, the acreage expected to be planted to feed grains is not large. With yields equivalent to the average for the past few years, production of the four principal feed grains would be 3 percent less to 3 percent greater than in 1943. 1/ Although carry-over stocks of feed are expected to be smaller this year than last, a decrease in livestock numbers during 1944 is expected. This would indicate that the supply of feed per animal unit in the 1944-45 feeding year might approximate that of 1943-44.

Increases in Corn Acreage Indicated for Major Producing Areas

The March 1 indicated corn acreage of 99.6 million acres is about 650,000 acres less than was called for under the agricultural goals for 1944. On the basis of the prospective acreage, and assuming yields in each State equal to the 1939-42 average, the production of corn for all purposes in 1944 would amount to 3,126 million bushels, or about 6 million bushels less than was produced in the record 1942 crop, but 50 million bushels larger than the corn crop of last year. If yields in each State are assumed to be equal to average yields in the period 1937-41, the 1944 production would amount to about 2,900 million bushels. The period 1937-41 does not fully reflect the increased use of high-yielding hybrid corn, but on the other hand weather may not be so favorable in 1944 as it has been in recent years.

The 1944 acreage of corn will be increased throughout most of the North and South Atlantic and East and West North Central States, if farmers carry out their intentions as indicated on March 1. Increases will range from 7 percent in the East North Central States to 2 percent in the South

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1/ "Average" yields for each crop were estimated by applying prospective acreage to yields obtained in a period considered to be as nearly representative of average conditions and yield trends as possible.

Atlantic States. Reductions in planted acreages are indicated in most of the South Central States, while little change is anticipated in most Western States. In the West North Central section (including the States of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas) the total prospective acreage to be planted is about 39.9 million acres, 7.2 million acres more than the average acreage planted to corn in this area during the 1938-42 period.

The total prospective acreage to be planted to corn in the East North Central States (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin) is 22.1 million acres, 1.5 million more than a year ago, and 2.9 million more than the average for 1938-42.

Reports from farmers in the North Atlantic States indicate a 5 percent increase in corn acreage over last year. The increase in livestock numbers in this region during recent years has increased the difficulty of obtaining ample supplies of feeds. The indicated increase in corn acreage is, at least partially, an attempt by farmers in this area to produce a larger proportion of their feed grain requirements. Of the South Atlantic States, only Georgia showed a small decrease (1 percent) while all other States in the region showed increases. All South Central States, except Kentucky with an increase of 7 percent, showed intentions of decreasing acreages. In the Western States, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Oregon indicated reductions in corn acreage, but most other States in that region showed little change.

Near Record Oats Acreage Indicated for 1944

The prospective plantings of more than 46 million acres of oats in 1944 are nearly 7 million acres more than were called for under the 1944 goals. This intended acreage is 8 percent above that planted a year ago and 12 percent above the 1933-42 average. Increases in intended plantings of this crop are general throughout the country, with only 6 States showing decreases. If 5-year (1937-41) average State yields per planted acre are attained, the production in 1944 would be about 1,300 million bushels -- 14 percent above last year and about 26 percent above the average production in 1933-42.

Barley Acreage Indicated to be Smaller in 1944; Sorghums Acreage about 3 percent Higher

The 1944 prospective planted acreage of barley is more than 2 million acres short of the 1944 goal for this crop. The 15.1 million acres to be planted to barley are 13 percent below the acreage of a year ago but 5 percent above the 1933-42 average. Decreases are expected in all main producing States except California. Assuming yields approximating the 5-year (1937-41) average, production of barley would amount to about 280 million bushels this year -- the smallest crop since 1939, and 13 percent below last year, but still considerably above the 10-year (1933-42) average.

Acreage to be planted to sorghums for all purposes is indicated at 18.1 million acres, a 3 percent increase over last year and 13 percent above the

1933-42 average. On the basis of the usual proportion of the total acreage which is harvested for grain, modified by the current trend, 114 million bushels of grain sorghums would be produced, if yields should equal the 1940-42 average.

Tame Hay Acreage Prospects Above Average

March 1 reports from farmers indicate that they intend to harvest about 1 million acres less of tame hay in 1944 than a year earlier. However, the expected harvesting of 60 million acres is 3 million more than the 10-year (1933-42) average, and more than in any year prior to 1940. If the 10-year (1932-41) State average yields of tame hay per acre are obtained on the prospective 1944 acreage, the crop will be about 77 million tons, or approximately 3 million tons more than the 10-year average. No estimates have been made on prospective wild hay harvested acreage, but a 10-year (1932-41) average production of about 10 million tons has been assumed.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Prices Received by Farmers for Feed Grains and Hay Show Increase

The index of prices received by farmers for feed grains and hay increased one point during the month ended February 15, to reach 169 percent of the 1909-14 average compared with 168 percent a month earlier, and with 165 percent on December 15, 1943. Although the average prices received by farmers for oats, barley, grain sorghums, and hay continued to advance, the increases were generally smaller than were registered in earlier months, reflecting stabilizing effects of maximum price regulations. Corn prices held steady at $1.13 per bushel, equal to 104 percent of parity. The average price received by farmers for oats advanced from 77.5 cents to 78.8 cents per bushel in the month ended February 15, a price equal to 116 percent of parity. The price of barley advanced a cent per bushel during the month to $1.09 per bushel, equaling 104 percent of parity. The average price received by farmers for grain sorghums on February 15, at $2.09 per hundred pounds, was an increase of 4 cents from a month earlier to equal 101 percent of parity. The average price received by farmers for all hay, $15.90 per ton, was 20 cents per ton higher than a month earlier, but still only 79 percent of parity on February 15.

Prices of High-Protein and Byproduct Feeds Stabilized

Prices of high-protein and byproduct feeds have been stabilized through maximum price regulations, and prices for almost all remain at ceiling levels, as they have done for the past few months. One exception to this is alfalfa meal, which advanced in price in early March, as a result of the higher ceiling price, to a level of $47.40 per ton (for No. 1 at Kansas City) after having been stabilized at $39.80 per ton since October 1943. Prices paid by farmers for mixed feeds continued to advance in February from a month earlier, but the increase (1 to 2 cents per 100 pounds) were smaller than were registered in earlier months, reflecting the extension of price control to the principal ingredients.

Government Sales of Corn and Wheat for Feed in February Smallest in Many Months

Sales of Government wheat for feed during February were smaller than for any month since March 1943. February sales amounted to only 11.3 million bushels compared with 19.1 million bushels during January, and 37.4 million bushels during February 1943. The volume of corn sold by Commodity Credit Corporation in February 1944 also declined, amounting to only 37,000 bushels, by far the smallest amount sold in any 1 month since the program was initiated.

Stocks of wheat owned by Commodity Credit Corporation increased materially during February from the total held at the beginning of that month (table 2). Stocks of 117.7 million bushels on March 1 were the largest held by Commodity Credit Corporation at the beginning of any month since last September. Stocks of Commodity Credit Corporation corn, however, were reduced considerably during February, totaling only 366,000 bushels on March 1 compared with 1.1 million bushels on February 1, 1944, and with 34.3 million bushels on March 1 a year ago.

Table 2.- Wheat and corn: Commodity Credit Corporation stocks at beginning of year or month, and sales for feed, 1942-44

Year and month	Stocks at beginning of period:		Sales for livestock feed		
	Corn	Wheat 1/	Corn	Wheat	Total in 56-pound bushels
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
1942	151,468	160,355	75,194	102,598	185,121
1943	31,547	247,468	45,640	419,642	495,256
1944					
Jan. ..	1,379	92,315	280	19,073	20,715
Feb. ..	1,099	87,106	37	11,336	12,183
Mar. ..	366	117,652		2/(17,000)	

1/ Based on reports of regional directors. Prior to May 1943 based on reports of custodians.

2/ Preliminary estimate.

Feed Grain Receipts Decline in February, But Large Compared to 1938-42 February Average

Receipts of feed grains at primary markets during February were somewhat lighter than in the preceding month. Corn receipts amounting to 31.1 million bushels at 12 principal terminal markets in February were almost 12 million bushels under January receipts, and 6 million bushels less than in February a year ago, but were, however, 13.8 million bushels (80 percent) greater than the average February receipts for the 5-year (1938-42) period. Shipments of 8.8 million bushels of oats to the same terminal markets during February were 800,000 bushels smaller than in January, 900,000 bushels larger than in February a year ago, but were double the average February receipts for the preceding 5-year (1938-42) period. Barley receipts during February at four terminal markets, amounting to 7.5 million bushels, were 1.1 million bushels under January receipts but approximately the same as in February a year ago, and 1.6 million bushels greater than the average February receipts for the 1938-42 period (table 3).

From mid-February to mid-March, weekly receipts of corn at 12 primary markets declined considerably from levels of previous weeks. Receipts during the week ended March 11 amounted to 4.3 million bushels, the lowest level since September 1943, and were only about half the receipts for the corresponding week of 1943, but were 8 percent larger than average receipts for that week in the period 1938-42. Oats receipts at the same markets amounted to 1.2 million bushels for the week ended March 11, compared with 1.9 million in the corresponding week last year, but were slightly above the 1938-42 average. Barley receipts at four markets for the week ended March 11 totaled 1.4 million bushels. This volume was the smallest weekly quantity received since July 1942 and slightly below the average of the corresponding week during the period 1938-42.

Table 3.- Feed grains: Receipts at primary markets, February 1942 and 1943, December-February 1943-44

Item	Feb.			1943-44		
	Average 1938-42	1942	1943	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Corn, 12 markets 1/	17,313	30,183	37,032	24,517	42,987	31,104
Oats, 12 markets 1/	4,356	5,524	7,946	8,228	9,628	8,844
Barley, 4 markets 2/	5,896	7,221	7,456	9,268	8,634	7,518

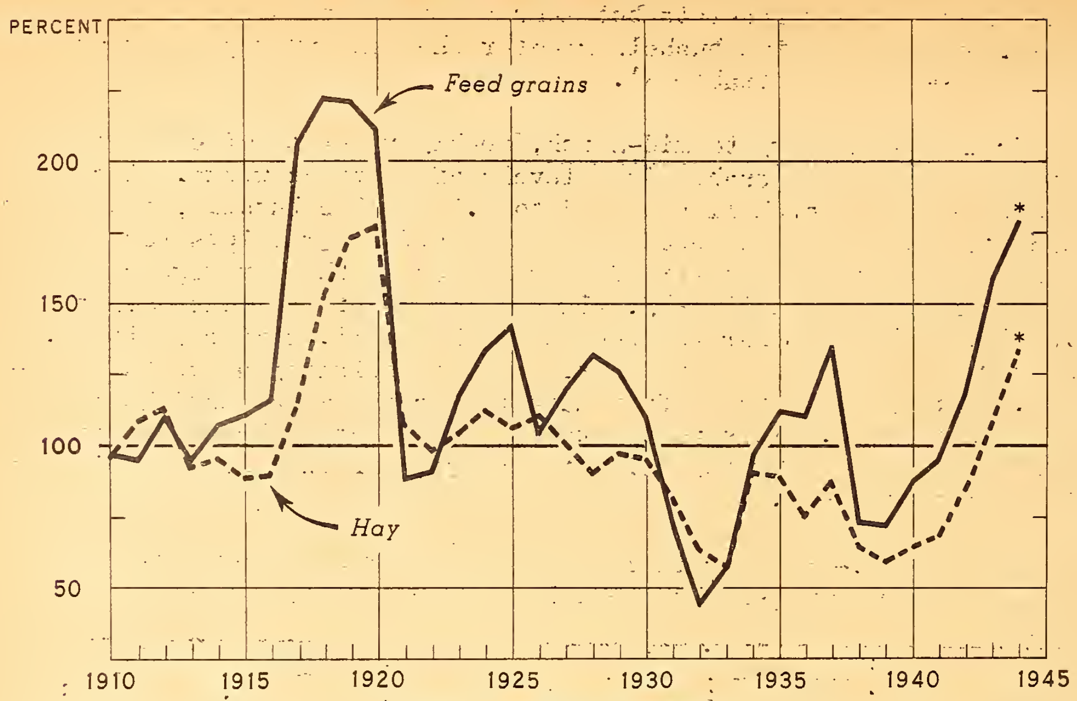
Compiled from reports of the War Food Administration.
1/ Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Duluth, St. Louis, Kansas City, Peoria, Omaha, Indianapolis, Sioux City, St. Joseph, and Wichita.
2/ Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago, and Duluth.

Feed Grain and Hay Relative Prices Follow Historical Pattern

Figure 2 shows index numbers of composite prices received by farmers for the three principal feed grains, corn, oats, and barley, and for all hay during the period 1910-43 and the average for January-February 1944. The significant feature of the chart is the relation which has existed between prices received by farmers for feed grains and hay throughout a long period, including two major wars and a long period of serious depression. Prices of hay generally have been more stable than those of feed grains, both in periods of rising and of declining prices. However, prices of hay have tended to be lower in relation to the base period (August 1909-July 1914) than have those of feed grains, with the exception of short periods.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR FEED GRAINS (CORN, OATS, AND BARLEY) AND HAY, UNITED STATES, 1910-44

INDEX NUMBERS (AUGUST 1909-JULY 1914=100)



*JANUARY AND FEBRUARY AVERAGE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 43537 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Index numbers of prices received by farmers for feed grains (corn, oats, and barley) and hay, 1910-44 (August 1909-July 1914 = 100).

				Feed grains					
1910	97	1917	206	1924	133	1931	72	1938	73
1911	95	1918	222	1925	142	1932	44	1939	72
1912	110	1919	221	1926	104	1933	57	1940	87
1913	95	1920	211	1927	119	1934	97	1941	95
1914	107	1921	88	1928	132	1935	112	1942	119
1915	110	1922	91	1929	126	1936	110	1943	158
1916	116	1923	117	1390	110	1937	135	1944 1/	179
				All hay					
1910	95	1917	115	1924	112	1931	82	1938	64
1911	108	1918	153	1925	106	1932	63	1939	59
1912	113	1919	173	1926	110	1933	57	1940	64
1913	92	1920	177	1927	101	1934	90	1941	68
1914	95	1921	107	1928	90	1935	89	1942	85
1915	88	1922	98	1929	97	1936	75	1943	108
1916	89	1923	104	1930	95	1937	87	1944 1/	133

1/ January and February.

RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Corn Set-Aside Order Issued by War Food Administration

A set-aside order designed to increase the flow of corn to the most essential users and in the volume needed to achieve wartime industrial production goals was issued by War Food Administration, effective at midnight March 23. The order, issued as Food Distribution Order No. 96, required country grain elevators in 124 counties in southwestern Minnesota, eastern Nebraska, western and central Iowa, eastern Illinois, and northwestern Indiana to offer 35 percent of all present stocks and future receipts of yellow and mixed corn during each 15-day period to purchasers designated by the WFA. 1/ It also required terminal elevators within the set-aside area to offer 35 percent of present stocks and a like quantity of future receipts coming from sources other than elevators. 1/

Purchasers of set-aside receipts and stocks will be designated by a War Food Administration-War Production Board committee, and the designated purchasers will then deal directly with the country or terminal elevators. Set-aside corn not accepted by a designated purchaser within 24 hours is to be offered to Commodity Credit Corporation. If CCC, or a purchaser designated by it fails to accept within another 24 hours, the corn is to be automatically released from the set-aside requirements.

1944 Support Prices Announced by War Food Administration

The War Food Administration on March 4, 1944, announced the 1944 schedule of support prices for corn, barley, and grain sorghums among other farm products. The support program for corn includes non-recourse loans at 85 percent of the parity price as of October 1, 1944, and will be made available to farmers on farm-stored corn grading No. 3 or better except for moisture content. The loans will be available December 1, 1944, to June 30, 1945, and will mature on September 30, 1945, or earlier upon demand.

Non-recourse loans on barley stored on farms or in warehouses also will be made available to farmers until December 31, 1944. The maturity date of these loans is April 30, 1945, or earlier upon demand. The loan rate for No. 1 barley will be 90 cents per bushel in California, Washington, Oregon and Idaho, and 85 cents per bushel in other States.

Non-recourse loans on grain sorghums stored on farms or in warehouses will be available to farmers, such loans to mature on June 30, 1945, or earlier upon demand. The loan rates for grain sorghums grading No. 2 or better will be $1 per bushel in Arizona and California and 95 cents per bushel in other States.

1/ In a later action, effective April 1, the quantity of corn receipts to be set aside by grain elevators in the area was raised from 35 to 60 percent.

Discounts from the rates specified for both barley and grain sorghums will be made for lower grades of each, and a discount of 7 cents per bushel will be made on warehouse-stored barley or grain sorghums unless the producer has paid the storage charges through April 30, 1945.

Price support for specified kinds of hay will be made by means of nonrecourse loans to producers or purchases from producers, the details of which are to be announced at a later date.

Maximum Prices Established for Alfalfa Hay Products

The Office of Price Administration on February 28 issued the second Revised Maximum Price Regulation No. 456, establishing specific maximum prices for alfalfa hay products in every State except those in OPA region 8, in which maximum prices had already been established in an earlier regulation which remains in effect. Basic prices in the new revised regulation range from $36.50 to $45.50 per ton for sun cured, and from $45.00 to $48.00 per ton for dehydrated products, depending upon the State or region. For kinds and grades, the regulation provides price differentials which must be added to or deducted from the basic prices specified. Permissible markups to allow for handling charges incurred are specified, and include $1 per ton to jobber for deliveries in pool carlots, $0.75 for all other sales by jobbers, $2.50 for wholesalers, and $7.00 for retailers.

CCC Hay Procurement Program for 1943 Drought States Terminated

The procurement phase of the WFA program, initiated in September 1943 for making hay available to dairy farmers in the 1943 drought areas of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina, was terminated as of midnight February 17. This termination applied only to acceptance of dealers' orders, and hay ordered to that date will continue to be delivered. The hay-purchasing agency delegated by CCC to handle the operational part of the program was the Southern States Cooperative, a farmer cooperative. Under the program only those farmers in the designated drought area agreeing to feed the hay exclusively to dairy cattle owned by them in the drought area prior to May 15, 1944, were eligible purchasers. The hay was distributed by the cooperative to dealers (not necessarily affiliates of the cooperative) located in the designated drought areas, which then distributed the hay to eligible dairy farmers.

During the period September 15, 1943, through December 31, 1943, approximately 86,000 tons of hay were purchased and distributed to dealers at an average price of $19.86 per ton. The difference between this price and the cost of buying the hay and distributing it to dealers was borne by CCC. It is estimated that an additional 64,000 tons will have been purchased and distributed before the program is fully completed. Most of the hay purchased was brought in from Canada, while the remaining tonnage was purchased in surplus-producing areas east of the Mississippi.

WFA Announced Allocation Plan for Distribution of Feed Wheat

The War Food Administration on February 28, 1944, announced its new allocation plan for the distribution of feed wheat. The plan is designed for the purpose of obtaining a more efficient and equitable distribution of the commodity than had previously been made. Under the new program, feed wheat owned by Commodity Credit Corporation will be sold through approved grain distributors to eligible purchasers of feed wheat on the basis of volume of their 1943 sales, and relative feed requirements and supplies available in the purchaser's area. Feed wheat allocation certificates are supplied by regional offices of Commodity Credit Corporation to the eligible purchasers. With these certificates, direct purchases may be made either from the Corporation or from warehousemen and grain merchandisers approved by the Corporation, and to whom it has furnished warehouse receipts representing feed wheat.

Under the new program feed wheat is to be sold to purchasers at established county prices in effect on the date of shipment without addition of any merchandising charges, since Commodity Credit Corporation provides stipulated merchandising fees to the distributors. To offset expense of these merchandising fees the price of feed wheat was increased 1 cent per bushel on all sales and shipments made on or after March 1. The price of Government feed wheat to qualified purchasers is somewhat lower than average prices received by farmers for wheat, the difference in price depending upon location in the country. In the major wheat-producing areas on February 15 the difference in price ranged from 5 to 20 cents per bushel, with a somewhat wider range in deficit producing areas.

The addition of margins by local dealers for sales both in bulk and in less than carload lots is based on margins provided in Office of Price Administration Maximum Price Regulation 487, as revised January 4, 1944. Local dealers selling whole feed wheat in bulk shall not charge a price in excess of the established county feed wheat price, plus 6 cents per bushel on sales of less than 100 bushels, or 3 cents per bushel on sales of 100 bushels or more, but less than a carlot. One cent per bushel may be added if wheat is actually transferred through the dealer's warehouse. If wheat is sacked, a charge of not more than 3 cents per bushel may be added to the applicable margins specified above. Dealers may make a reasonable charge for furnishing sacks, which shall not exceed the maximum price regulation thereon. Charges for grinding the wheat may not exceed those approved by the Commodity Credit Corporation for the particular area involved.

WFA Oilmeal Set-Aside Program Continued for April Production

For the fourth consecutive month the protein oilmeal set-aside order, under Food Production Order No. 9, is to be continued. WFA announced that processors shall continue during April to set aside 20 percent of their production of oilseed meal for directed distribution by the WFA.

Commodity Credit Corporation will also continue its program of buying back half of the soybean meal produced in southern cottonseed mills from CCC soybeans.

DISTRIBUTION OF OILSEED MEAL CONSIDERABLY LARGER IN VOLUME THAN IN 1942

United States total distribution of oilseed cake and meal (including cottonseed, soybean, linseed, and peanut meals) during the first 3 months of 1944 shows important increases over the distribution during the same months of 1942 (tables 4 and 5). Data for 1943 distribution of these commodities are not available at this time. January 1944 distribution amounted to about 78,000 tons more than in January 1942, February 1944 distribution was 132,000 tons greater than in February 1942, and it is estimated that March 1944 distribution will exceed March 1942 distribution by about 124,000 tons.

In each of the first 3 months of 1944 the greatest proportion of United States monthly oilmeal distribution was made to the South Central States: 35 percent in January, 31 percent in February, and an estimated 28 percent in March. This compares with 30 percent of the total 1942 United States distribution in January, 30 percent in February, and 32 percent in March. The North Central States received approximately the same proportion of the United States distribution of oilseed meal in each of the first 3 months of both 1942 and 1944, and were the next most important oilmeal consuming areas of the country. The West North Central States received 17 percent of the total United States distribution in January and 17 percent also in January 1942. In February, this region received 17 percent compared with 16 percent in February 1942. In March it received 20 percent, whereas in March 1942 it received 16 percent. The East North Central States received in each of these 3 months in 1944, a volume equal to 14, 19, and 18 percent, respectively, compared with 19, 20, and 19 percent in January, February, and March of 1942.

The North Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Western States follow successively in importance of United States consumption of oilmeals in the first 3 months of 1942 and 1944 as indicated by the distribution figures in tables 4 and 5. The South Atlantic area received approximately the same proportion in the first quarter of 1944 as it did in the same period of 1942, whereas the North Atlantic area received slightly less in proportion to the total than it did in that quarter of 1942, and the Western area slightly more.

Table 4.- United States distribution of oilseed meal, processors' distribution, and War Food Administration allocations of oilseed meal under FPO-9, by geographic divisions, January, February, and March 1944 1/

Geographic division	January			February			March		
	Total U. S. distribution 1944	Processors' distribution (80%) 1944 2/	Set-aside allocation, 1944	Total U. S. distribution 1944	Processors' distribution (80%) 1944 2/	Set-aside allocation, 1944	Total U. S. distribution 1944	Processors' distribution (80%) 1944 2/	Set-aside allocation, 1944 3/
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
N. Atl.	54,860	39,662	15,198	65,171	49,492	15,679	64,474	48,234	16,240
E. N. Cent.	71,041	55,912	15,129	101,641	75,591	26,050	87,789	66,689	21,100
W. N. Cent.	87,658	64,205	23,453	94,948	65,513	29,435	97,642	72,382	25,260
S. Atl.	70,329	54,064	16,265	58,850	43,324	15,526	48,247	37,757	10,490
S. Cent.	184,690	144,041	40,649	168,577	128,874	39,703	137,607	110,207	27,400
West.	57,568	34,395	23,173	57,371	33,961	23,410	55,632	29,132	26,500
Total U. S.	526,146	392,279	133,867	546,558	396,755	149,803	491,391	364,401	126,990

Compiled from records of the War Food Administration.

1/ Includes cottonseed, soybean, linseed, and peanut meals.

2/ Includes mills' 50 percent distribution of CCC soybean meal produced in southern plants from northern-grown soybeans.

3/ Preliminary.

Table 5.- United States distribution of oilseed meal by geographic divisions, January-June 1942 1/

Division	Cottonseed	Soybean	Linseed	Peanut	Total	Cottonseed	Soybean	Linseed	Peanut	Total
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
		January					February			
N. Atlantic	2,241	31,516	34,080	90	67,927	1,594	28,130	26,659	25	56,408
East North Central	8,626	53,786	23,027	---	85,439	7,253	47,590	17,663	---	72,506
West North Central	13,243	34,761	26,156	---	74,160	8,895	29,435	20,432	---	58,762
South Atlantic ..	26,928	9,509	3,748	3,389	43,574	21,101	9,513	3,867	2,083	36,564
South Central ...	116,920	15,485	1,489	1,620	135,514	95,070	11,766	1,175	1,186	109,197
Western	20,393	12,435	8,918	---	41,746	13,868	9,990	7,115	---	30,973
Total United States	188,351	157,492	97,418	5,099	448,360	147,781	136,424	76,911	3,294	364,410
		March					April			
North Atlantic ..	1,145	25,290	32,996	45	59,476	1,758	23,942	24,979	51	50,730
East North Central	4,928	44,607	18,696	---	68,231	3,284	40,679	15,528	20	59,511
West North Central	8,725	31,723	18,012	---	58,460	6,133	28,429	18,590	---	53,152
South Atlantic ..	21,849	8,363	3,238	1,664	35,114	20,772	8,320	3,364	1,704	34,160
South Central ...	101,526	12,326	1,174	937	115,963	65,773	10,793	989	646	78,201
Western	13,529	11,049	5,194	---	29,772	9,611	8,817	5,395	---	23,823
Total United States	151,702	133,358	79,310	2,646	367,016	107,331	120,980	68,845	2,421	299,577
		May					June			
North Atlantic ..	1,079	21,263	20,966	40	43,348	414	23,829	19,460	25	43,728
East North Central	3,598	29,131	12,341	---	55,070	3,478	40,514	11,179	---	55,171
West North Central	4,429	31,697	15,986	20	52,132	4,344	30,597	15,866	50	50,857
South Atlantic ..	16,204	8,195	2,599	1,057	28,055	13,963	9,663	1,709	1,596	26,931
South Central ...	46,631	10,859	1,001	548	59,039	41,991	10,906	770	680	54,347
Western	7,015	9,216	4,807	---	21,038	9,275	9,828	5,844	---	24,947
Total United States	78,956	120,361	57,700	1,665	258,682	73,465	125,337	54,828	2,351	255,981

Source: War Food Administration. 1/ In addition to the oilseed meal distribution shown in this table, there were exports of meal and domestic distribution of meal of which the destination was unknown. In January these shipments totaled 6,518 tons; in February 7,851 tons; in March 9,244 tons; in April 9,008 tons; in May 8,665 tons; and in June 6,303 tons.

Table 6.- Planted acreage of specified crops, 1938-43, and prospective plantings for 1944

Crop	Average 1933-42	1943	Indicated 1944	1944 as a percentage of 1943	1944 goals
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent	1,000 acres
Corn	96,276	97,136	99,583	102.5	100,253
Oats	41,059	42,858	46,170	107.7	39,558
Barley	14,401	17,329	15,074	87.0	17,372
All sorghums 1/	15,702	17,291	17,865	103.3	16,740
Soybeans for beans 2/	3,848	10,820	11,096	102.6	13,654
Flaxseed	2,469	6,320	4,351	68.8	5,895
Peanuts 3/	2,402	5,202	4,704	90.4	6,158
Tame hay 2/	57,049	61,016	59,910	98.2	62,838

1/ Grain and sweet sorghums for all uses except sirup. 2/ Harvested acreage.
3/ Grown alone for all purposes.

Table 7.- Feed crops: Acreage and production, United States, 1924-44

(Data for cover page)

Year	Corn		Oats and barley		All hay	
	Acreage planted	Production	Acreage planted	Production	Acreage planted	Production
	1,000 acres	1,000 tons	1,000 acres	1,000 tons	1,000 acres	1,000 tons
1924	100,879	62,247	49,055	26,626	74,459	91,454
1925	101,413	78,354	52,611	27,103	70,105	78,832
1926	99,660	71,315	52,739	22,432	68,795	76,025
1927	98,460	73,251	50,043	23,230	72,131	98,151
1928	100,399	74,634	53,070	28,887	67,185	83,842
1929	99,130	70,446	55,237	24,542	69,531	87,357
1930	103,915	58,244	56,189	27,632	67,947	74,527
1931	109,364	72,126	58,303	22,795	68,160	75,203
1932	113,024	82,050	60,104	27,258	70,412	83,721
1933	109,830	67,133	57,974	15,449	68,439	75,072
1934	100,563	40,570	52,491	11,525	65,387	60,485
1935	99,974	64,382	57,555	26,292	68,562	90,389
1936	101,959	42,159	54,771	16,227	67,743	70,040
1937	97,174	74,003	52,173	24,153	66,015	83,035
1938	994,473	71,365	51,561	23,589	68,194	91,465
1939	91,696	72,266	53,694	21,999	69,097	86,305
1940	88,913	68,945	54,851	27,341	71,919	94,767
1941	87,631	74,922	57,395	27,581	71,776	94,238
1942	90,552	87,683	62,131	31,893	72,649	105,295
1943	97,136	86,132	60,187	26,034	74,417	99,543
1944	1/ 99,583	2/87,528	1/61,244	2/27,520	3/73,500	4/ 87,000

1/ Prospective plantings as of March 1. 2/ Based on March 1 prospective plantings with average yields. 3/ Prospective acreage of tame hay plus estimated acreage of wild hay. 4/ Based on March 1 prospective harvested acreage of tame hay plus 10-year average of wild hay.

Table 8.- Planted acreages of corn, oats, and barley by regions, 1938-44

Region	Corn			Oats			Barley		
	Average 1938-42	1943	Indicated 1944	Average 1938-42	1943	Indicated 1944	Average 1938-42	1943	Indicated 1944
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
North Atlantic	2,395	2,325	2,449	2,070	1,780	2,093	280	264	237
East North Central	19,248	20,594	22,112	9,870	10,420	11,076	1,125	766	534
West North Central	32,706	38,620	39,924	19,561	21,333	23,208	9,392	10,028	8,790
South Atlantic	11,500	10,796	10,962	1,856	2,154	2,194	201	266	234
South Central	22,899	23,019	22,413	4,530	4,660	5,039	1,107	1,515	996
Western	1,905	1,782	1,723	2,311	2,511	2,560	3,624	4,490	4,283
Total United States	90,653	97,136	99,583	40,198	42,858	46,170	15,729	17,329	15,074

Table 9.- Feed grains: Planted acreage, yield, and production, 1938-44

Year	Corn 1/			Oats			Barley		
	Planted acreage	Yield per planted acre	Production	Planted acreage	Yield per planted acre	Production	Planted acreage	Yield per planted acre	Production
	1,000 acres	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 acres	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 acres	Bushels	1,000 bushels
Average 1938-42	90,653	29.6	2,679,859	40,198	29.0	1,164,537	15,729	20.8	326,995
1938	94,473	27.0	2,548,753	39,390	27.7	1,089,383	12,171	21.1	256,620
1939	91,696	28.1	2,580,912	38,182	25.1	957,704	15,512	17.9	278,163
1940	88,913	27.7	2,462,320	39,224	31.8	1,245,388	15,627	19.8	308,944
1941	87,631	30.5	2,675,790	41,598	28.4	1,180,663	15,797	22.9	362,082
1942	90,552	34.6	3,131,518	42,595	31.7	1,349,547	19,536	22.0	429,167
1943	97,136	31.7	3,076,159	42,858	26.7	1,143,867	17,329	18.6	322,187
1944	2/99,583	31.4	3/3,126,000	2/46,170	28.2	3/1,300,000	2/15,074	18.6	3/280,000

1/ For all purposes. 2/ Prospective plantings as of March 1. 3/ Based on March 1 prospective plantings with 1939-42 average State yields for corn, and 1937-41 average State yields for oats and barley.

Table 10.- Oilcake and meal: Production and disappearance for livestock feed, United States, by quarters, 1935-43 1/

Year beginning Oct.	Oct.-Dec.	Jan.-Mar.	Apr.-June	July-Sept.	Total
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
			Production		
Average 1935-39	1,317.5	1,011.6	535.3	617.4	3,481.8
1940-41	1,484.4	1,274.0	848.9	802.7	4,410.0
1941-42	1,490.0	1,262.9	870.4	972.7	4,596.0
1942-43	1,780.3	1,692.4	1,384.7	1,239.1	6,096.5
1943-44	1,892.4				
			Disappearance for livestock feed 2/		
Average 1935-39	1,138.6	947.7	510.7	579.4	3,176.4
1940-41	1,407.5	1,165.5	816.3	866.4	4,255.7
1941-42	1,259.8	1,282.1	925.9	1,059.7	4,527.5
1942-43	1,782.7	1,656.3	1,308.9	1,185.2	5,933.1
1943-44	1,799.0				

1/ Soybean, cottonseed, linseed, and peanut cake and meal.

2/ Excludes cottonseed meal used for fertilizer and soybean meal used for low-fat flour and industrial products.

Table 11.- Production and stocks of specified byproduct feeds, February 1942 and 1943, and December 1943-February 1944

Item	Feb.		1943-44		
	1942	1943	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
Production					
Cottonseed cake and meal ...	177.0	176.5	262.0	214.5	155.4
Soybean cake and meal	---	294.3	289.8	321.9	358.4
Linseed cake and meal	---	63.6	91.6	85.3	83.9
Peanut cake and meal	3.4	13.3	13.9	10.5	9.5
Gluten feed and meal	75.5	80.1	85.4	1/ 86.0	1/ 80.4
Brewers' dried grains	10.2	17.2	17.9	16.0	15.3
Distillers' dried grains ...	24.7	28.0	35.6	34.2	35.3
Wheat millfeeds	351.9	424.7	474.9	508.5	2/415.0
Stocks, end of month					
Cottonseed cake and meal ...	370.3	58.5	67.7	71.5	69.4
Peanut cake and meal	7.3	2.9	3.1	3.4	4.0

Compiled as follows: Cottonseed cake and meal, Bureau of the Census; soybean and linseed cake and meal, War Food Administration, derived from Census crushings reports; peanut cake and meal, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; brewers' and distillers' dried grains, War Food Administration; gluten feed and meal derived from reports of the Corn Industries Research Foundation, and wheat millfeeds from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Domestic grind. 2/ Preliminary.

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